

Remarks

The specification has been amended to add section headings.

The Official Action objects to the form of the claims and rejects claims 5-7 under §112, second paragraph. Claims 5-7 have been replaced with new claims 8-10 that are believed to be suitable as to form. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 5-6 were rejected as anticipated by SALA 5,415,322. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

New claim 8 provides, among other features, that the mechanical speed gear includes two idle toothed wheels (21) and (22) on a first motored shaft (12) that rotates the cylindrical wall, a grooved wheel (23) that is between the two toothed wheels and that is keyed-in onto the first shaft, where the grooved wheel is movable between the two toothed wheels in an axial direction of the first shaft, and stakes (31) on respective faces of the grooved wheel that are insertable into corresponding seats (32) in the toothed wheels to drive the toothed wheels.

SALA does not disclose that either of the first and second gearwheels 45a and 45b is movable between the two toothed wheels in an axial direction of the first shaft (e.g., see column 6, lines 51-66.) Further, SALA does not disclose the claimed stakes on respective faces of the grooved wheel that are

insertable into corresponding seats in the toothed wheels. Accordingly, the new claims avoid the rejection under §102.

In addition, it is not seen where SALA discloses a pneumatic cylinder that operates on a fork carrying two rollers that engage a groove of the grooved wheel as in claim 9. Elements 42a and 42b are wheels, not pneumatic cylinders. Thus, new claim 9 further avoids the rejection under §102.

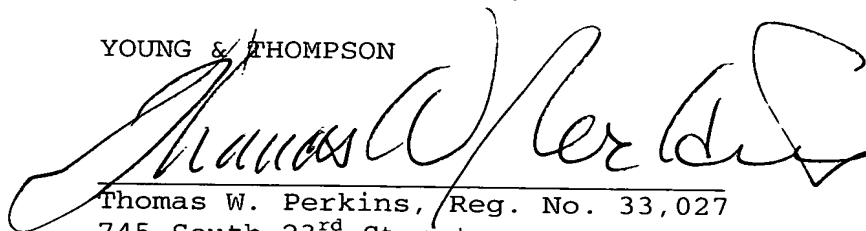
Claim 7 was rejected as unpatentable over SALA in view of PINKHAM et al. 3,339,703. PINKHAM et al. do not make up for the shortcomings noted above and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas W. Perkins', is written over the printed name and address.

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TWP/mjr